



**courage.
imagination
will.**



WOW 2011 Impact Statement



WOW's impact in 2011

The 2011 WOW evaluation illustrated that the initiative has been very successful in achieving its objectives. In particular, the evaluation found that WOW: increases young people's understanding of what it takes to be successful in life and work; enhances the employability skills of participants; meaningfully engages organisations towards the fulfilment of the WOW objectives; and, positively influences the way young people, schools and workplaces connect.

100% of teachers surveyed would recommend the program to other teachers/schools, while 98.3% of students said that they would recommend the program to their friends.

Student, teacher and working world partner evaluation summaries can be viewed on the back of this page. A complete WOW 2011 Evaluation report can be viewed here:

<http://www.fya.org.au/initiatives/worlds-of-work/>



WOW's reach in 2011

The 2011 WOW program was the largest delivered in the program's history, comprising 32 WOW weeks across four states and territories, with more than 600 students and 1000 workplace volunteers making up the WOW community. The majority of students who participated in WOW 2011 came from schools in areas of socio-economic disadvantage.

Of the 32 WOW weeks, five special WOW weeks were delivered in 2011. These weeks involved working in partnership with a community/education organisation to target students from particularised circumstances including. Focused cohorts included: Regional Victorian Indigenous Students, Burmese Refugee Students, NT Indigenous Leadership Students, Young people disengaged from the mainstream school system, Indigenous students in the Catholic Education System.



WOW 2012

The 2012 WOW program is the largest to be delivered in the program's history, comprising of 45 WOW weeks across five States and Territories, with more than 1000 student participants and 1200 workplace volunteers making up the WOW community.

Teacher comment

I truly feel connected to this program and the opportunities it provides. The growth that I have witnessed in the young people it caters for is incredibly moving and I am proud to say I have been involved. The facilitators have a clear passion and drive to pass on positive messages and advice and that is a beautiful thing. I cannot say enough good things about the worth of WOW. I think each activity has the power to change the lives of those involved by helping them gain skills they can use in all aspects of their life. Wonderfully inspiring and refreshing (Teacher, 2011)

Impact on Students

- 94.7% of students surveyed agreed or strongly agreed that doing the WOW Program encouraged them to develop aspirations (set goals) for their future.
- 94.3% indicated that after doing WOW they had a stronger belief in what they could achieve in their life.
- 92.1% of students surveyed agreed or strongly agreed that since doing WOW, they felt equipped to take up more/new opportunities.
- 93.2% of students surveyed agreed or strongly agreed that The WOW program had increased their understanding of what it takes to succeed in work

Student comments

"I didn't care about school before this week. This has changed my perspective on life." – Tyson

"I found the people in the working worlds inspiring to talk to. One comment that really touched me, 'When you see an opportunity, take it.' I will try to do that from now on." – Bo

"I learnt about different worlds of work and myself. This was a great chance to meet so many diverse people. I've created my own definition of success. I now know that I can do things that I set out to do." - Darcy

Impact on Teachers

- 93.9% of teachers surveyed agreed or strongly agreed that the WOW program has given students a better understanding of their personal strengths.
- 96.9% believed that doing the WOW program has increased students' awareness of different options for future work.
- 100% identified that students' communication skills had increased/increased a lot. 94% identified that students' initiative had increased/increased a lot. 97% identified that students' ability to learn new things had increased/increased a lot.

Teacher comments

"We found the week invaluable. It gives us as teachers a different opportunity to bond with the kids. It gave our students experiences they would otherwise not have. They tackled tasks and succeeded where previously they would not have tried or attempted. We have statements they all made about the week up in the room and we refer to them on a weekly basis re-enforcing the fact that they CAN succeed".

"All of the students have commented on how many jobs are out there that they didn't know existed. Many of them have been inspired to look at their signature strengths and abilities and look at future careers where they can use their strengths. They have learnt not to be afraid to fail and keep trying".

"Several students indicated that they would now aim to undertake the VCE who had not originally intended to so do".

Impact on Working World Partners

- In 2011, 32 workplaces and approximately 1000 workplace volunteers took part in WOW 'working world' sessions. 12 organisations supported the program financially.
- 98.4 % indicated that they would like to participate in the WOW program again.
- 100% indicated that they would recommend the WOW program to other employees.
- 96.3% agreed that engaging with secondary school students adds value to their organisation.

Workplace volunteer comments

"It (WOW) further cemented my belief that it doesn't matter how hard life has been for you or what kind of start you have, education and having someone believe in you enough to give you a go is the answer to many of our social problems. Kids will rise to the challenge if given the opportunity. This is why your program is so valuable". (NAB Staff Member, 2011)

"WOW was easy, well executed, and above all inspiring to connect with / contribute to the young people. It has restored my faith in the young and the good feeling of potentially helping a young person". (Shell Staff Member, 2011)